

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for distributing and providing personal information based upon a user request, comprising:

receiving from a requestor a request for personal information relating to a target person, the request including a request purpose;

requesting the personal information of the target person from a plurality of information sources and based upon the request;

gathering the personal information based upon responses to the requesting; and

providing the gathered personal information to the requestor.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving a gift purpose as the request purpose.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the gathering step includes obtaining the personal information from the target person.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request from a server and including the request purpose based upon date-related information.

5. The method of claim 1, further including:

transmitting a query to the requestor, the query relating to submitting a request for personal information for the target person; and
receiving selection of the query as the request.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the requesting step includes sending messages requesting the personal information from a plurality of persons.

7. The method of claim 1, further including:

sending a request for the personal information to the target person; and
receiving from the target person an indication of permitted access to the personal information.

8. The method of claim 7, further including:

sending to the target person a request for the personal information along with an identification of the requestor; and
receiving from the target person an indication of permitted access to the personal information by the requestor.

9. The method of claim 6, further including identifying the plurality of persons based upon relationships with the target person.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the requesting step includes sending messages requesting the personal information from a plurality of entities.
11. The method of claim 10, further including identifying the plurality of entities based upon previously-gathered personal information of the target person.
12. The method of claim 1, further including querying the requestor to determine if the requestor wants to request additional personal information.
13. The method of claim 1, further including storing the personal information and associating the stored personal information with the target person.
14. The method of claim 1, further including obtaining the personal information from a database storing information related to the target person.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing step includes providing at least one of the following to the requestor: an identification of service providers to satisfy the request purpose; an identification of services to satisfy the request purpose; an identification of products to satisfy the request purpose; or profile information relating to the target person.

16. An apparatus for distributing and providing personal information based upon a user request, comprising:

a receive module for receiving from a requestor a request for personal information relating to a target person, the request including a request purpose;

a request module for requesting the personal information of the target person from a plurality of information sources and based upon the request;

a gather module for gathering the personal information based upon responses to the requesting;

and

a provide module for providing the gathered personal information to the requestor.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving a gift purpose as the request purpose.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the gather module includes a module for obtaining the personal information from the target person.

19. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving the request from a server and including the request purpose based upon date-related information.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, further including:
- a module for transmitting a query to the requestor, the query relating to submitting a request for personal information for the target person; and
 - a module for receiving selection of the query as the request.
21. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the request module includes a module for sending messages requesting the personal information from a plurality of persons.
22. The apparatus of claim 16, further including:
- a module for sending a request for the personal information to the target person; and
 - a module for receiving from the target person an indication of permitted access to the personal information.
23. The apparatus of claim 22, further including:
- a module for sending to the target person a request for the personal information along with an identification of the requestor; and
 - a module for receiving from the target person an indication of permitted access to the personal information by the requestor.
24. The apparatus of claim 21, further including a module for identifying the plurality of persons based upon relationships with the target person.

25. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the request module includes a module for sending messages requesting the personal information from a plurality of entities.
26. The apparatus of claim 25, further including a module for identifying the plurality of entities based upon previously-gathered personal information of the target person.
27. The apparatus of claim 16, further including a module for querying the requestor to determine if the requestor wants to request additional personal information.
28. The apparatus of claim 16, further including a module for storing the personal information and associating the stored personal information with the target person.
29. The apparatus of claim 16, further including a module for obtaining the personal information from a database storing information related to the target person.
30. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the provide module includes a module for providing at least one of the following to the requestor: an identification of service providers to satisfy the request purpose; an identification of services to satisfy the request purpose; an identification of products to satisfy the request purpose; or profile information relating to the target person.